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The Expositor's Bible. Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. By WALTER F. ADENEY, M.A. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son. Chicago: A. C. McClurg. 1893. Pages viii and 404. Price, \$1.50.

A breezy book stirs up the mind and is as interesting and fascinating as cycling. But commentaries rarely start the enthusiasm of the truth-seeker. Occasionally, however, one is found which contains a veritable storage battery, charging and driving ahead with alarming momentum every mind which touches it. Such works are almost diamond-rare in this series. The expository style is not the most compact for chained argument. It breaks connection too often to draw a heavy load. Professor Adeney's volume has some excellent features. With forcible, plain, straightforward, and sometimes eloquent thought and language, he carries along his reader. No one is in doubt about his position. Fully abreast of the best information, he is fresh and helpful. The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah are genuinely historical, though put together some time after the events therein recorded. Esther is probably a product of some Jewish writer in the Persian Empire, built upon some slight foundation in fact. The character sketches are well made and add materially to the worth of the book. No notice, however, is amplified regarding the recent finds at Susa by the French Dieulafoy. This is too important a fact to be overlooked. This volume is quite above the average in the series.

PRICE.

The Expositor's Bible. The Book of Joshua. By W. G. BLAICKIE, D.D., LL.D. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son. 1893. Pages viii and 416. Price, \$1.50.

This series of sermonic or expository commentaries has already grown to thirty-six volumes, evenly divided between the Old and New Testaments. Of the eighteen on the Old, Dr. Blaikie has already contributed to the first six-volume set two books on Samuel. As a biblical scholar his position is well understood, contrasting strikingly with the views of several other contributors to these Old Testament volumes. In the introduction to his exposition proper, he lays before the reader his reasons for finding a supernatural cause behind the remarkable events in the lives of individuals and of Israel in their early history. The higher critics come in for their share of notice, and are practically forced to retire. Modern criticism has little influence in the treatment of the Book of Joshua. He hews to the old lines. The miraculous is as abundant as ever. But there is a charm in the spirit of the writer. The moral and spiritual is made to glisten on almost every page. A gem of a sermon is each section, and a lesson of interest to the popular reader. It would be ungracious to mention minor faults in this short notice; but one thing should be said, the author sometimes wearies his reader by a disproportionate expansion of some choice thought. The uniform type and binding of the series pleases the book-lover.

PRICE.